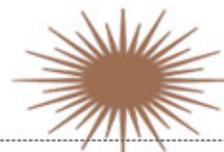


NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Department of Health Services



LEADERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY ARIZONA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 20, 2011

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ARIZONA HEALTH SERVICES IS READY FOR ACTION

Disease detection and swift and effective public health interventions are essential to saving lives in a public health emergency. According to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Public Health Preparedness, Arizona's public health system is ready and well-prepared.

“CDC is the gold standard when it comes to measuring public health readiness,” said Director Will Humble, ADHS. “So to get a report that says that Arizona's public health system is prepared, it tells us we are really ready. CDC’s funding for Public Health Emergency Preparedness helps us continually improve our ability to respond in all types of unexpected situations.”

CDC evaluates the ADHS system based on realistic responses required during an incident. For instance, the Arizona Public Health Laboratory is scored on the staff’s ability to respond at any hour with proper procedures to intake, evaluate, and notify the correct people for either a chemical or biological sample, as well as being tested for foodborne illnesses.

“The state health department and the CDC are only part of the puzzle,” added Humble. “Local and tribal health departments round out the partnerships that protect the public.”

The CDC report outlines the Department’s score on its ability to request, receive, and distribute emergency supplies through the Strategic National Stockpile. This year, ADHS scored 97 out of 100 on the review. The evaluation for the Phoenix metropolitan area rose to 95 from 89 for the year prior.

You can see the [complete report](#) on the CDC’s website.

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